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## (54) PRODUCTION OF HIGH-MOLECULAR WEIGHT POLYLACTIC ACID AND POLYMER

### (57)Abstract:

**PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED:** To produce a high-molecular weight polylactic acid suitable for molding in a short time without causing discoloration or decomposition at the time of increasing the molecular weight of the polylactic acid.

**SOLUTION:** A polylactic acid is irradiated with ultraviolet rays at  $\geq 120$  mW/cm<sup>2</sup> UV intensity and  $\leq 400$  nm wavelength to thereby produce a high-molecular weight polylactic acid having a form suitable for molding.

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